

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 02490 281722Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----281722Z 012180 /44
R 281310Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2490

STADIS////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR EAID US GV UR
SUBJ: BRIEFING OF AMEMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KOUROUMA

REF: STATE 308710

1. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE DAOUDA KOUROUMA TOLD
CHARGE DECEMBER 27 THAT HE PLANS TENTATIVELY TO
ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE UP DUTIES WEEK OF
JANUARY 24, UNLESS DEPARTMENT SEES REASON HE SHOULD
COME EARLIER. KOUROUMA SAID HE HOPES DURING INTERIM
TO MEET WITH EMBASSY FREQUENTLY TO "BRIEF HIMSELF"
ABOUT US. HE MADE CLEAR HE HAS MANDATE FROM GOG
TO TRY AND "CLEAR UP POLITICAL CLOUD" IN US-GUINEAN
RELATIONS AND THIS MANDATE EXTENDS TO -PRE-DEPARTURE
CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY.

2. KOUROUMA VOLUNTEERED THAT GOG HAD UNDERSTOOD
POSTPONEMENT OF GOG PL-480 DELEGATION AS "BLACKMAIL"
AND HAD TO REJECT THIS ON PRINCIPLE AS BASIS
FOR DEALING WITH US. CURRENT PERIOD IN RELATIONS HE
CHARACTERIZED AS "FREEZE." HE REPEATED GOG POSITION
THAT US "SECURITY GUARANTY" PROTECTING GUINEA IS
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REQUIRED BEFORE GOG CAN DO WITHOUT SOVIST TU-95S, AND
ALTHOUGH REMAINING AMBIGUOUS APPEARED TO ENVISAGE
THIS GUARANTY IN FAIRLY EXPANSIVE TERMS. AS START AT
EASING ISSUE, HOWEVER, HE OFFERED TO TRY TO DISABUSE
GOG, DURING HIS UP-COMING CONSULTATIONS WITH
GOG LEADERS, OF NOTION THAT US TIED TU-95S DIRECTLY

TO RICE AS "BLACKMAIL" AND AT SAME TIME TO MAKE CLEARER TO THEM THAT US HAD BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT TU-95S SURVEILLING US SHIPS FAR FROM GUINEA'S SHORES, NOT NEAR GUINEAN WATERS, A FACT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HAD REGISTERED. HE SAID HE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO BE "HELPFUL VOICE" WININ GOG. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF HE COULD GET ON PAPER, TO SHOW LEADERSHIP (1) WHAT SEELYE AND SCHAUFELER HAD TOLD BAH ABOUT US WISH TO CONTINUE NORMAL PL480 PROGRAM AND ABOUT BEING IN CONTACT ABOUT DATES FOR DELEGATION, AND (2) SEVERAL SENTENCES AS AN ADDENDUM TO DESCRIPTION OF TU95 MISSIONS AMBASSADOR HARROP HAD PASSED TO GOG UNDER INSTRUCTIONS EARLIER WHICH WOULD MORE CLEARLY STATE US SHIPS BEING SURVEILLED WERE NOWHERE NEAR GUINEA. PER DEPTTEL 288315, CHARGE SAID HE WOULD PASS KOUROUMA'S THOUGHTS ALONG TO DEPARTMENT.

3. COMMENT: ON THE ONE HAND, IN VIEW OF PAST EXDIS TRAFFIC THIS SUBJECT EMBASSY HAS ABSOLUTELY NO REPEAT NO DESIRE ENGAGE IN FRUITLESS SEMANTICS OR SPARING WITH GOG PENDING FINAL DEPARTMENT DECISION ON PL480 TACTICS AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN MID JANUARY. ON OTHER HAND, MEETINGS WITH KOUROUMA DURING NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS OFFER HARD-TO-COME-BY CHANCE FOR A FEW RELAXED CHATS WITH RESPONSIBLE YET FRIENDLY GUINEAN OFFICIAL HAVING CURRENT ACCESS TO TOP WHICH MAY PROVIDE MODEST AMOUNT OF FRESH REPORTING INSIGHTS INTO REGIME AND ITS MOOD. KOUROUMA'S MISSION IS EVIDENTLY TO GET RICE TURNED BACK ON AND TO ERASE "SHADOW" IN RELATIONS CAUSED BY US DISPLEASURE OVER TU-95S. GIVING HIM CONFIDENTIAL

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TWO ITEMS HE ASKS FOR (PARA TWO) CERTAINLY WILL NOT BUDGE GOG ANY BUT COULD GIVE KOUROUMA'S OWN STOCK A MINOR BOOST WITH LEADERSHIP; IN ANY CASE THEY SEEM INNOCUOUS ENOUGH, BEING REPETITION OF ALREADY STATED US VIEWS. PLEASE ADVISE. EMBASSY SEES ITS ROLE AT MOMENT AS LARGELY PASSIVE COLLECTOR OF ELEMENTS OF KOUROUMA'S SALES PITCH WHICH CAN SERVE AS GRIST FOR UPCOMING REAPPRIASAL OF PL-480 TACTICS, BUT AT SAME TIME WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERN TO MAKE THE MOST OF WHATEVER LIMITED CONTACTS WE CAN GET WITH GOG, SUCH AS THIS ONE. MAINLAND

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